CONFIDENTIAL   ER 85-806

20 February 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Information Systems Board Members

FROM: [   ]   25X1
                   Executive Secretary to the Board

SUBJECT: Minutes of 18 January 1985 Meeting of the
                   Information Systems Board   (U)

1. The Information Systems Board met on Friday,   25X1

2. [   ] asked the Board members to send any additions   25X1
or corrections of the minutes to the Executive Secretary. Please
change the date on last month's minutes to read 15 January 1985.
(U)

3. [   ] and Agency representative to the   25X1
IBM users group, briefed the Board on the future of IBM Interactive
Systems. She began with background information on the changes in
computer use at CIA over the past two decades, dwelling particularly
on why the Agency chose VM/CMS and the advantages and disadvantages
of our system. She then discussed needed enhancements to our system
and outlined an "evolutionary -- not revolutionary" path for
incorporating such changes. (U)

4. [   ] briefed the Board on the Network   25X1
Enhancements and Workstation (NEWS) project which ODP proposes to
move the Agency into the next generation of computing. He discused
the forces within the Agency pressing for change to a more standard
workstation and system that will run commercially available
software, outlined the work in progress to make such a capability
available, compared the architecture and capabilities of the new and
old systems, and explained the schedule for the overall project.
Finally, he addressed what ODP was trying to do to increase system
capability for users before the 1987 goal for retrofitting the
existing system. (U)

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EXEC   25X1

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5. A brief discussion followed in which [   ] remarked 25X1
that the DI was considering using the Delta Data 8265 workstation as
an interim device before the new system was available in 1987
because those devices would operate without rewriting the
Conversation Access Method (CAM) software which governs the way in
which the mainframes and terminals communicate. He also suggested
that the Board needed to think about the "life cycle" of workstation
and system upgrades in the budget because "we will always have many
old and some new devices" simultaneously at any point in time. (C)

6. [   ] asked whether or not it was possible to get some 25X1
"leverage" over the vendors by sticking with one vendor "end-to-end"
in our system. [   ] agreed with the strategy of using 25X1
fewer vendors but doubted we would have much impact on any major
vendor. In fact, he commented, we do not want to freeze our design
at any one place. The goal is a system that will evolve
continuously, and our problem is not knowing how to determine our
real requirements. [   ] agreed, stating that we needed to 25X1
understand the functions which require automation, let those drive
our architecture, and not respond to vague feelings that we can use
a new technology. [   ] suggested that the technology will 25X1
always drive requirements to some extent -- particularly for the DI
analysts because of the increasing availability of automated
analytical tools. [   ] remarked that, after several false 25X1
starts, we had come to understand that communications modernization
is a continuous process and not a one shot project. He suggested
that the Board needed to view "NEWS" in the same way. (C)

7. After announcing his plans to have IBM conduct an executive
seminar for senior Agency managers in May and briefing the Board on
the status of the executive information system (ExNet), [   ] 25X1
then adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be 22 February
1985 in Room 7E32, Headquarters, at which time the Board will be
briefed by members of the Artificial Intelligence Applications
Working Group. (U)

25X1

Distribution
    1 - Compt
    1 - D/OC
    1 - D/ODP
    1 - D/OIS
    1 - D/OS
    1 - D/OCR
    1 - D/NPIC
    1 - D/OD&E
    1 - D/ORD
    1 - D/OSO
    1 - C/IMS
    1 - C/ASG
    1 - ER
    1 - Planning Staff   2   25X1

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